

Jesuit Rugby Newsletter: Vol 14 No. 6

Marauders Sail To Play-Offs In Style

Jesuit 60 - Woodcreek 3

The Jesuit Marauders saved some of their best Rugby for last – the last being the final game of the Sacramento Valley League season against Woodcreek in their most impressive stadium.

Jesuit launched its strongest XV available for the first half of this game and the Marauders had a little too much pace and finish for a very willing Woodcreek team. Jesuit scored twice in the first six minutes through center Matt Ference and a scintillating one from stand-off James Poindexter in which he wrong footed the Woodcreek defense. Poindexter converted his own try for a 12-0 lead.

As they have done many times this season, Jesuit worked the weak side from a scrum near the Woodcreek line and winger Willem Bos was on hand to dive over in the corner. Though Poindexter missed the conversion he played the major role in the next try with another slashing run that fooled the defense. After a series of rucks won by Jesuit, Matt Ference was on hand to flash over for a great try. Poindexter converted from wide out and Jesuit led 24-0.

Outside center Matt Chipman proved too quick for the Woodcreek defense and crossed for a 29-0 lead. To its credit Woodcreek applied consistent pressure to the Jesuit line and from a penalty opened their tally. Chipman rounded off the scoring for the half with a second try and a 34-3 lead.

With a comfortable lead Jesuit made changes to allow all members of the Varsity squad of 30 to have playing time. Though it was very much a new look team, Jesuit took only one minute to add to their score. Again it was stand off Poindexter who charged through the defense twice to take his tally to three for the game.

Scott Heath added another try before sophomore standoff Pat Barrientes closed out the scoring with an individual effort.

Jesuit would have been satisfied with the first half effort in particular. Lock Chris Fry was voted forward of the match while best back went to James Poindexter.

Jesuit 60 (Poindexter 3, Chipman 2, Ference 2, Bos, Heath, Barrientes tries Poindexter 4, Barrientes conversions) def Woodcreek 3 (One penalty)

Jesuit: Himmelmann, Lagomarsino, Donaldson, Bush, C.Fry, Colwell, J.Fry, Leif, Boyer, Poindexter, Bos, Ference, Chipman, Magnani, Wilson Rockwell, Casanova, Torres, Brown, Cowie, Kuppenbender, Heath, Cairns, Ainsley, Brown, Barrientes, Smith, French, Briand

Young & New Crew Star For Sophomores

Jesuit 48 - Woodcreek 12

Friday night the Jesuit F/S Gold traveled to Woodcreek to take on a big Woodcreek side. Without the use of Patrick Barrientes and Jack Brown due to Varsity call-ups, it figured to be a close and hard fought match. Not so, as the back line of Jesuit sliced and diced its way to a 48-12 victory.

Scores by Austin Young and Tyler Cook after terrific combination play involving both backs and forwards in the first five minutes set the tone for the game. Led by freshman fly, Riley Snider and scrum, Oliver Valle, the backfield worked the ball in, out and around the confused Woodcreek defense. Additional scores in the first half by newbie Kurt Parker (Snider conversion) and Freshman eight, Mark Poindexter put the team in front at half 22-0. Great defense by the Jesuit pack and backs, especially by Oliver Valle, completely shut down the Woodcreek offense.

The second half was more of the same with Austin Young again scoring on a great run by Willie Pevec and passes to Young, Chase Contreras, Parker and back to Young again (Snider conversion). Woodcreek finally got on the board after a rare mistake by Jesuit inside their own 22. Scoring for Jesuit continued with scores by Jared Cortez, Chase Contreras and fullback, Willie Pevec (Snider conversion). A final score by Woodcreek completed the game with the score 48-12.

It was a complete victory for the Gold with both back and forward lines dominating. Three freshmen played significant roles, and the four newbies from wrestling and basketball finally put it all together.

Willie Pevac was named best back and Jack Bayless was named best forward. Others having great games included Mark Poindexter, Matt Ternan, Riley Snider, Tyler Cook, Austin Young, Kurt Parker, Oliver Valle and Alejandro Torres.

Jesuit 48 (Young 2, Cook, Parker, M.Poindexter, Cortez, Contreras, Pevac tries, Snider 4 conversions) def Woodcreek 12 (two tries, one conversion)

Freshmen Win Thriller

Jesuit 15 - Marin Highlanders 12

Jesuit Red Frosh team demonstrated great spirit and tenacity in pulling out a close game against Marin Highlanders 15-12. In what was a well played and tough game, Jesuit and Marin were well matched with Marin having great runs from their back line and Jesuit having a good balanced game from its pack and backs.

Marin took the lead prior to the half 7-3 and stretched their lead to 12-3 early in the second half. Jesuit then played solid defense and closed out their scoring with the winning try by flanker Alex Kay after a jarring tackle by scrum half Ian Hause.

Several frosh starters and key players had been hurt in the last two games so others had to step in and play positions they had not played much in the season. Ethan Gallagher, Mike Ordorica, Dolan Jones, Scott Homes, and Jacob Buchko stepped up in this game.

The game was well refereed by Barry O'Connell and Marin exhibited great spirit and sportsmanship throughout the game.

Riley Snider was voted back of the match and Mark Poindexter forward of the match.

Previous Award winners were –

v Dixon Best Back - Matt Koewler Best Forward - Casey Reilly

v SFGG Best Back - Matt Ternan Best Forward - Ian Hause

v Granite Bay Best Back - Riley Snider Best Forward – Mark Poindexter

Rugby Around The World

SUPER 14

Round 7

Highlanders (NZ) 39 - Lions (SA) 29

Brumbies (Aust) 30 - Chiefs (NZ) 23

Reds (Aust) 31 - Cheetahs (SA) 10

Sharks (SA) 29 - Hurricanes (NZ) 26

Waratahs (Aust) 39 - Blues (NZ) 32

Bulls (SA) 28 - Force (Aust) 15

Ladder

Bulls 28, Stormers 23, Waratahs 23, Crusaders 23, Brumbies 21, Reds 19, Chiefs 17, Hurricanes 16, Blues 16, Sharks 12, Highlanders 10, Cheetahs 9, Lions 3, Force 1

Eagles Swoop But Miss Prey

Stepping up in class, the Frosh/Soph Gold (with a little help from a few juniors) took on their neighborhood rivals, El Camino B at Jesuit's Rugby Field. In an uneven, and often "chippy" game, Jesuit prevailed 24-19.

Early in the game, it looked as if the skill of the Jesuit backs, as well as the coordination of the backs and forwards, would dominate the game. Indeed the first three scores by Jesuit came off of excellent back and forward play.

Garrett Burghoff scored first after an excellent series of passes from flyhalf, Patrick Barrientes, and outside center, Austin Young. Minutes later after a beautiful phased trip down the field, Christian Guttierrez scored on a perfect "one-ball" pick.

The first half ended with another long drive culminating in an excellent individual effort by scrum, Oliver Valle (Mezger kick). The half ended with Jesuit up 17-0. Although Jesuit clearly dominated, play was somewhat uneven with many knock-ons, drifting backs (clear failure to read the backs of our new T-shirts) and unusual kicking decisions—a fact Coach Barry pointed out, not so subtly, at halftime.

The second half was a different matter. With a clear size and strength advantage, El Camino began to play to their strength. Coupled with some Jesuit mistakes and poor decisions, the El Camino power game asserted itself resulting in two quick scores to narrow the margin to 17-12.

After another poor kicking decision and a failure to clear the 22, El Camino was able to power over the try line to take the lead with ten minutes left 19-17. During this time, the game took an unfortunate turn toward nastiness. After a number of late hits, El Camino was penalized with a sin bin trip, thus reducing their squad to 14.

Jesuit immediately took advantage of this with a long drive. Excellent passing by Barrientes, Pevac and Brown ate up real estate. Another great "one-ball" pick by Sam Cimino gave the Marauders the lead for good at 22-19. The conversion made the final 24-19.

Although uneven, there were many positives in the game. The coordination between backs and forwards was excellent. Coach Whit's big guys ran the field beautifully and scored two great and thoughtful goals. Defense was solid and, at times, the open play approached Coach Barry's 10 phase ideal.

Then there was the kicking. Although there were a few excellent, purposeful kicks, most were hopeful at best. Many others were hallucinatory. Hopefully, the kicking was indicative of mass vacation brain infarctions and not a permanent state.

Best back was awarded to Patrick Barrientes and best forward to Jack Bayless. Others having excellent games were Sam Cimino, Mark Cardellino, Christian Gutierrez, Mark Poindexter, Jack Brown, Oliver Valle, Willie Pevec, Austin Young and Kurt Parker.

To "Death" Do We Kick

By Master Coach Rick Sardon

Torturing both the poor Christian Brothers Falcons and the Jesuit coaching staff, Jesuit's Frosh/Soph Gold rallied for two scores in the last six minutes to defeat their rivals from South Sacramento 31-26. On vacation for most of the game, the Marauders took charge in the game's waning moments to play their best rugby of the season.

Once again, the game started with a quick score by Jesuit as Austin Young powered through the Falcon defense from 30 meters out to take a 5-0 lead. This would be the Big Red's only highlight of the first half. Six times the boys drove within the Falcon's 22 meter line only to give up possession via knock-ons, penalties and ill advised kicks.

"Not to look a gift horse in the mouth", CBS converted two of these errors into 14 points with some excellent flank play by their gifted outside

center. The half ended with the Falcons leading 14-5 and with Coaches Sardon, Poindexter, Shorey, and O'Connell apoplectic.

After a rousing speech by the coaching staff whereby the players were threatened with various vile consequences if another unusual kick was attempted, the opening kick went through the try zone for a penalty to CBS. After ten minutes of lost possessions, Jesuit resurrected themselves with a neat series of back and forward combinations culminating in a try by Jack Brown (Riley Snider conversion) to trail 14-12.

Immediately after the score, Jesuit again drove the length of the field with flyhalf, Patrick Barrientes, leading the charge. Unfortunately, an errant pass within the CBS 5 meter line was intercepted and returned 75 meters. A CBS score soon followed, again taking advantage of excellent flank play, staking the Falcons to a 21-12 lead.

Capitalizing on a Falcon knock-on, Jesuit rallied with an inconsistent-but-effective drive, culminating in an inspired "one-ball" try by Ian Hause to draw Jesuit closer at 21-17. In keeping with the theme of the first 60 minutes, the ensuing kickoff was mishandled by the Jesuit forwards providing the visitors with their last score and a 26-17 lead with six minutes to play.

The stage was set for Jesuit's heroics, the Falcon's heartbreak and Coach Sardon's recovery from heart failure. As if a switch had been turned on, Jesuit marched 75 meters using 9 seemingly perfect phases.

Great back play by Oliver Valle, Barrientes, Matt Ternan, Austin Young, Kurt Parker and, especially, John Mezger led the way. Coupled with some decisive picks by forwards Ian Hause, Tait Takai, Casey Reilly, and Christian Gutierrez the Jesuit backs terrorized the Falcons, eating up chunks of territory. Patrick Barrientes scored on an inspired give-and-go with Matt Ternan (Barrientes conversion) and Jesuit trailed 26-24 with just over two minutes remaining.

Jesuit received a deep kick-off and went to work on the decisive 80 meter drive. The drive was orchestrated by Valle and Barrientes, but the Falcon killers were soccer stars John Mezger and Austin Young. Mezger received a creative pass from Young and sprinted 50 meters to the Falcon 22.

Hoping to get Riley Snider free for a drop goal with a series of forward-back combinations, Mezger instead found himself open to goal with Young trailing for the score. With Barrientes' conversion, the game ended at 31-26 Jesuit.

Exciting and frustrating, the game was great for the large contingent of Jesuit fans. The coaching staff aged, Jesuit players celebrated, and the game Falcons were brokenhearted. It was not a pretty victory, but it was a courageous one, and then there were those perfect six minutes. . .

Best back was Matt Ternan, with Casey Reilly selected as best forward (both freshmen). Others with excellent games included Pat Barrientes, Trey Gentner, Austin Young, Kurt Parker, Jack Brown, Oliver Valle, John Mezger, Ian Hause, Christian Gutierrez, and Jack Bayless.

Cheers And Jeers

To make two tackles in succession on opposition players is difficult, three in succession almost impossible but four No, we saw it at Woodcreek in the sophomore game when up-and-coming half back Oliver Valle did just that – and right in front of the Jesuit coaches. Let's see it again Oliver.

The resurrected Jesuit newsletter may have an Aussie ring about it but with the imminent departure of the editor, the rumor has surfaced that the next newsletter may have a "soccer" ring to it. Could that have something to do with the man of many talents – soccer coach, rugby coach and contributor to the article above. He's the man!!!!

Delicious cake as an après practice delicacy – yes! It happened Wednesday when Mesdames Brown and Hollis organized a cake and signed photo for our departing Aussie. Coach Barry was both surprised and delighted. It certainly was the "icing on the cake" for his six weeks sojourn at Jesuit.

With the first play-off game out of the way, we prepare for the New Zealand invasion Tuesday with the Varsity A and B games against our friends from the North Island Rugby stronghold -Napier Boys High. The Varsity A game is at 4-00pm with the Varsity B game to follow. Come one, come all for what should be two great games of Rugby.